

## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 4, 2006, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the present application has been amended in a manner which is believed to place it into condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-7 and 19-22.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment overcomes the objection to the specification.

The Applicants further submit that the present Amendment overcomes the rejection of claims 4-7 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Since *PV* is now clearly indicated as peripheral pulse volume per length,  $PF = PV \times HR$  as recited in the present claims is now clearly distinguished from cardiac output.

The Applicants further submit that the present Amendment overcomes the rejection of claims 1, 9-13, 16 and 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Raines* '587. The amended claims recite calculating a quantity that is a mathematical function of the peripheral vascular function in the limb. The ankle/arm index of the applied reference does not meet that limitation. Thus, the claims as amended are not anticipated.

The Applicants still further submit that the present Amendment overcomes the rejection of claims 2, 3, 8, 17, 18 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Raines* in view of *Chio*. *Chio* does not overcome the above-noted deficiency of *Raines*.

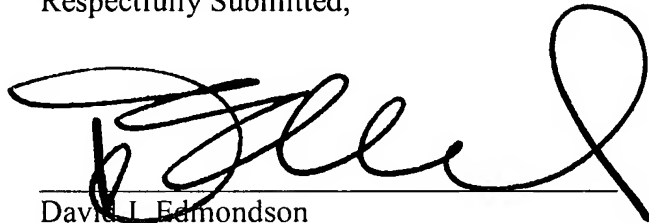
Finally, the Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 31-34 are patentable. Newly added claims 31 and 32 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively, and recite that the mathematical function is selected from the group consisting of pulsatile limb blood flow, total limb blood flow, limb vascular compliance, and limb vascular resistance. The applied references do not teach or suggest that limitation. Newly added claims 33 and 34 correspond to original claims 4 and 19 and are patentable for the same reason for which patentable subject matter was indicated in claims 4 and 19.

In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there remain any issues that can be overcome most easily through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (117622-00105). If an extension of time is required to render this submission timely and either is not filed concurrently herewith or is insufficient to render this submission timely, the Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for such an extension for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Edmondson', written over a horizontal line.

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